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Accessories Make The Difference

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Fashion experts have predicted accessories will be more important in the 80s than they have been for years. With clothing styles becoming more classic and investment dressing necessary to meet the demands of working women, accessories will come into their own.

Buying practices for clothing are changing. People are purchasing better quality but fewer items. Most can no longer afford to select clothes that have a short fashion life. Accessories help create an individual look for a tailored suit or change the mood of a basic dress. Women are discovering the magic of accessories for changing the entire image of an outfit.

You must know the total look you desire before you can choose accessories effectively. The trick is to combine the components to emphasize your most desirable features. Pleasing total effects draw upon the principles of design, balance, proportion, rhythm and emphasis. In this guidesheet, we will discuss how these design principles relate to each accessory and provide you with ideas of how to use accessories. Additional information on these principles is available in the Designs For You, GH 550-554.

As clothing designs become simplified, color takes on greater importance. Obtain versatility by selecting garments in basic or neutral colors and then use colorful accessories. Individuality, mood and style can all be achieved through the use of colorful accessories. Suggestions for the selection and use of color to accessorize your wardrobe effectively are highlighted in each accessory category.

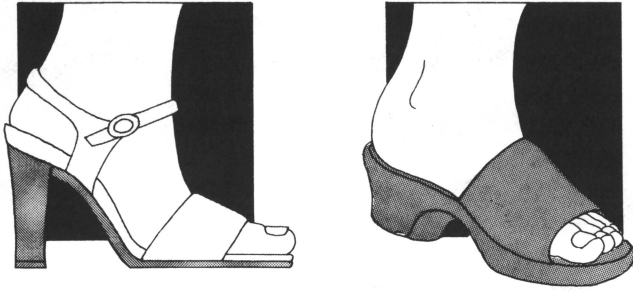
Accessories come in a variety of prices. Should you pay \$20 or \$3.98 for a belt? The quality of the accessory depends upon how often you think you can use it and where it will be worn on the body. As the face is frequently the focal point, accessories worn closest to the face should be of better quality than those worn farther away. If the belt is classic in design, neutral in color and can be worn for several years, the best you can afford would be a wise investment. However, if it is a 'faddish' design or you think it will have limited use, pay as little as possible and wear it often. Before buying any accessory item, try it on with one of the garments you plan to accessorize. See how it looks before purchasing the new accessory.

Your wardrobe is the best indicator of what accessories are needed. Examine your wardrobe and determine what colors you need, how much you can afford, and how many purposes the accessories will serve. There are other factors besides appearance to consider when selecting accessories—fit, occasion, and care.

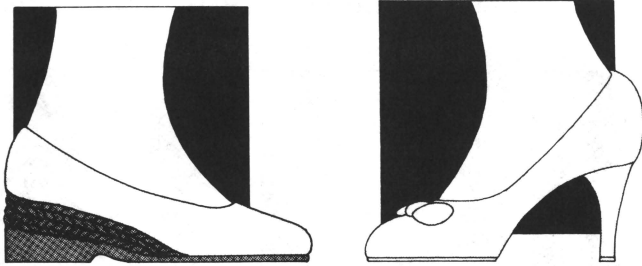
Shoes

Shoes add to the total look of the ensemble and must meet the test of comfort, fit and appropriateness. Poor fitting and uncomfortable shoes cause problems with posture and facial expressions.

Fashion and garment proportions affect available shoe styles. With longer skirts, higher heels provide a better proportion but when shorter lengths are fash-



Straps widen the foot and shorten the leg line. (See above.) Shoes with an open throat (see below) are slenderizing.



ionable, lower shoe heels may be better. Shoe designers predict more conservative and classic styles in a neutral palette for the 80s.

Shoe design and texture of the materials as well as color affect the appearance of your legs and feet. The classic pump with its open throat, extends the leg line. This creates an illusion of length or height and is one of the most slenderizing of all shoe styles. Straps, bows and contrasting trimming tend to widen the foot, shorten the leg line and focus attention on the foot. Another method of creating a long, lean look is achieved by wearing fashion boots. Be sure the top of the boot and skirt hem meet or slightly overlap to create a continuous line or it will shorten the silhouette.

Basic colors and smooth, dull textures provide the greatest value in shoe purchases. Common basic colors include tan, navy, cordovan and black. If the shoe color is slightly darker than the skin tone, it can be successfully worn with all wardrobe items and give an illusion of height by extending the leg line. This is why beige shoes may be one of the most economical and becoming shoes in many people's wardrobe. Black people will find dark brown or cordovan excellent colors for the same reason. Shoes darker than the hemline are recommended, but if light or white shoes are worn, repeat the color somewhere else in the ensemble. Brightly colored shoes tend to make the feet appear larger than they actually are. Texture adds variety to the shoe wardrobe, but shiny and rough fabrics give an illusion of increased foot size.

Hosiery

Hosiery may emphasize the legs and help tie together the entire ensemble. The amount of empha-

sis you want to give to hosiery may depend on your figure and skirt length.

The legs can be emphasized by the color and texture of the selected hosiery. Dark or textured hosiery tends to make legs appear larger. Fine texture hosiery of slightly darker shade than the skin color will tend to make the legs appear smaller. Bright or contrasting colors draw attention to the legs, which tends to make them appear larger.

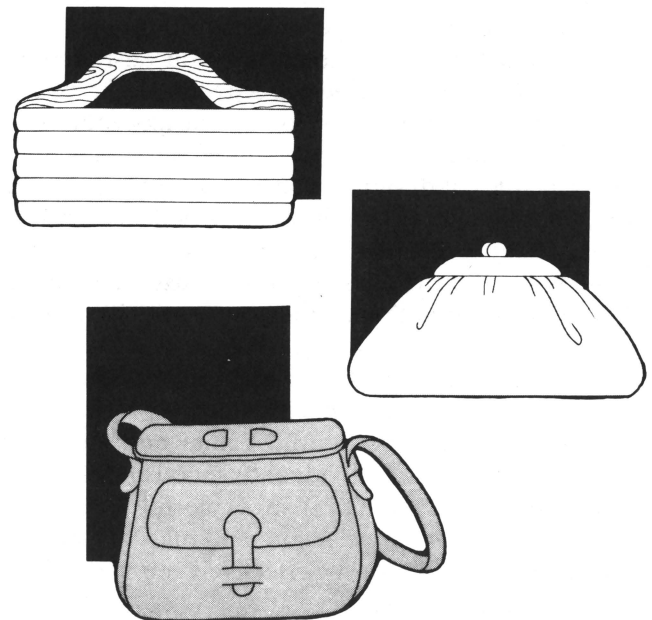
Color and texture of the hosiery should harmonize with the total outfit. Sheer nylons are dressier than coarse hosiery. Stockings without toe and heel reinforcements should be selected for sandals to give a bare-legged look.

Handbags

Occasion and use determine the quality of handbag needed. Basics for any wardrobe include an all-purpose handbag and a smaller one for more dressy occasions. Undoubtedly, the all-purpose bag will receive more use than the one for special occasions and may warrant a greater investment and careful consideration.

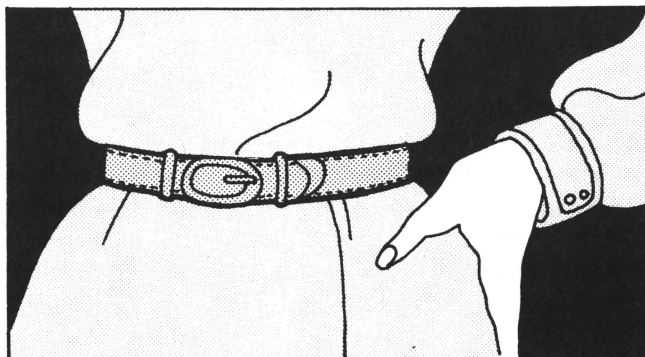
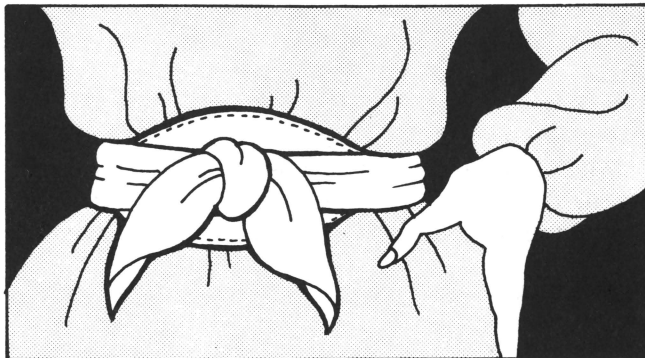
Consider your height and body build when you shop for a handbag. Large handbags tend to make small figures appear smaller than they actually are. A large or heavy person may feel more comfortable with a purse which is larger because it is scaled to their figure. Frequently, it's not the size of the purse that makes it useful but how it is arranged. A well-arranged, medium-sized purse can be much more efficient than a large bag haphazardly filled.

Choose basic color if you are limited to one daytime all-purpose handbag. This includes tan, cordovan, navy and black. It is not only unnecessary for shoes and handbags to be the same color but is often



impossible. Some women prefer to use a basic color that will blend with most of her dresses and coats. Bags which are bright and textured detract attention from an attractive garment, unless the garment is also bright and casual.

How the handbag is carried as well as its dimensions will affect your total appearance. Horizontally shaped shoulder bags will tend to make the hip appear larger. Short, stocky women should avoid barrel or box-shaped purses; those with more depth than width would be better choices. Look in a full-length mirror to see how the purse will blend with your ensemble and your figure.



Belts

A belt is a great way to add interest or give a finished touch to an outfit. While it helps to have a waistline like Scarlett O'Hara it's not essential. Belts come in many sizes, shapes, colors and textures for a variety of waistline sizes.

Sure the tall, thin person looks wonderful in wide belts with bright contrasting colors or rough textured belts, but almost everyone can wear a narrow, smooth leather or self-fabric belt which blends into the color of the garment. A wide belt that contrasts with the garment emphasizes the hips and bust and may tend to reduce one's height.

For the person who has a large waistline or doesn't have a defined waistline, belting can be more slimming than the unbelted, flowing look. A matching tied belt can suggest the waistline. A belt peeking out from a vest or jacket gives a finished look. Avoid large belt

buckles or other components that will focus attention on the waist.

Belts can be used to change the waistline position. A short-waisted person may lengthen the appearance of her waistline by wearing a dropped waist with the belt below her natural waistline. A long-waisted person can wear a belt higher than her natural waistline to make her waist appear shorter.



Scarves

Scarves can do a great deal to change the look of a basic outfit. Most people limit the use of scarves to something they tie around the neck but scarves may also be worn around waists, shoulders, hips or head. An oblong scarf will provide greater flexibility than smaller square scarves.

A carefully selected scarf may be used to enhance your best features. Scarves are a vital part of the wardrobe because they may bring color to a focal point whether it be your face, waist, hips or head. Also, while you are phasing out garments, the season's newest color in a scarf is an inexpensive way to update your wardrobe. Scarves tied around the neck have a tendency to create a horizontal or wide line, if you desire a vertical or longer line tie the scarf lower on the chest to create a V line. The way the scarf is tied will determine the amount of bust emphasis, a flat bow will provide less emphasis than a full, puffy one.

Since scarves are usually inexpensive, they can bring a touch of color to a one-color ensemble or coordinate colors in the ensemble. If a garment isn't made in your best color, select a scarf that is and use it as a focal point. Multicolored scarves may be used in a variety of ways, but a solid colored scarf may be more effective in creating a point of emphasis.

Hats

Often fashionable felt hats are featured with tailored, classic styles. Or more feminine hats are worn with casual or sophisticated dresses creating a garden party look. Hats usually attract a lot of attention—they should enhance your appearance and you should feel comfortable wearing them.

Like other accessories your body build and personality will influence the hat type and shape that will do the most for you. Select a hat by looking at yourself in a full-length mirror. Check the hat from all sides and the back to determine if the hat shape is flattering on you.

Select a hat that doesn't emphasize or exaggerate your face length or width. A long, thin face is softened by a hat with a wide, irregular brim. Brimless or upturned hats add height to the wearer. Hat size should be consistent with body size, smaller persons look better in smaller hats and larger persons, in larger hats.

The color as well as the shape of the hat affects the total appearance. If the color of the hat contrasts with the costume it will make the you appear shorter than one that harmonizes. If the hat has a brim, the wider the brim and the greater the color contrast, the shorter you will appear.

Jewelry

Jewelry provides the finishing touch. Distinctive jewelry looks best when worn with a solid color garment. Simple jewelry, such as gold chains or pearls, looks good on garments with gathers, folds or patterned fabrics.

Select jewelry which enhances your skin tones and reflects the occasion. Silver and gold are classics for most occasions. Skin with blue undertones looks best with silver jewelry, while skin with yellow undertones is highlighted with gold. Jewelry with rough textures and natural colors, like wood, should be worn for casual occasions.

Consider jewelry size and your build. A small person looks better in delicate designs. A tall or large-boned person will be able to wear more dramatic

pieces. Jewelry should enhance the beauty of the garment yet not be overwhelming.

Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, pins, and rings attract attention. A choker necklace emphasizes the horizontal line and widens the face. A long necklace draws the eye downward and adds length. Drop earrings make a round face look thinner and large button earrings widen the apparent size of the face. Bracelets and rings emphasize arms, wrists, and hands. Jewelry should be placed where you want accent or emphasis.

Summary

Accessories are an economical way to add variety to an outfit and increase its versatility. When selecting accessories, you should select items appropriate for the occasion.

Placement of accessories is also very important in order to enhance your best features and to minimize your flaws. The color, size, texture, and number of accessories should be considered in order to create the desired effect.

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